

# Batch File Tricks

(Overriding DOS Commands with Batch Files - Version 1.1)

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## An Introduction

This is one of the first tricks I learnt with computers and it does not work with command prompt in windows 2000/xp, but in 98, and MS-DOS. This trick changes the function of DOS commands.

For example, you want the edit command to behave as the exit command, then simply create a batch file called 'edit.bat' and put it in as many folders as you like. (Please note that the trick will work only in the folders in which you put this file). The batch file should only contain the command 'exit' (without quotes). Now if anybody uses edit command, then dos will close.

## An Explanation

The basics of it's functioning are simple, since .COM , .BAT and .EXE files can be executed (run) without the need for extensions. During some trials, I noticed that batch files (.BAT) were given preference to .COM and .EXE files in **MS-DOS 6.0 and below, and also in the ms-dos prompt in windows 98 and before**, so I thought if using this in other ways was possible. I was right. Few minutes later, I created my first "malicious" code ever, although it was more funny than malicious now that I look back on it. So I created a file called **edit.bat** .

For those of you who know these computing basics, the edit command is used in DOS to create or change files in a simple text editor, and the edit command's default file is **edit.com** but as I've mentioned, I had noticed earlier, .BAT files we're executed before .COM files, I created a file edit.bat and inserted into it the following code -

```
ECHO DOS HAS ENCOUNTERED A SERIOUS ERROR AND WILL  
NOW SHUT DOWN, PRESS ANY KEY TO TERMINATE...  
PAUSE  
EXIT
```

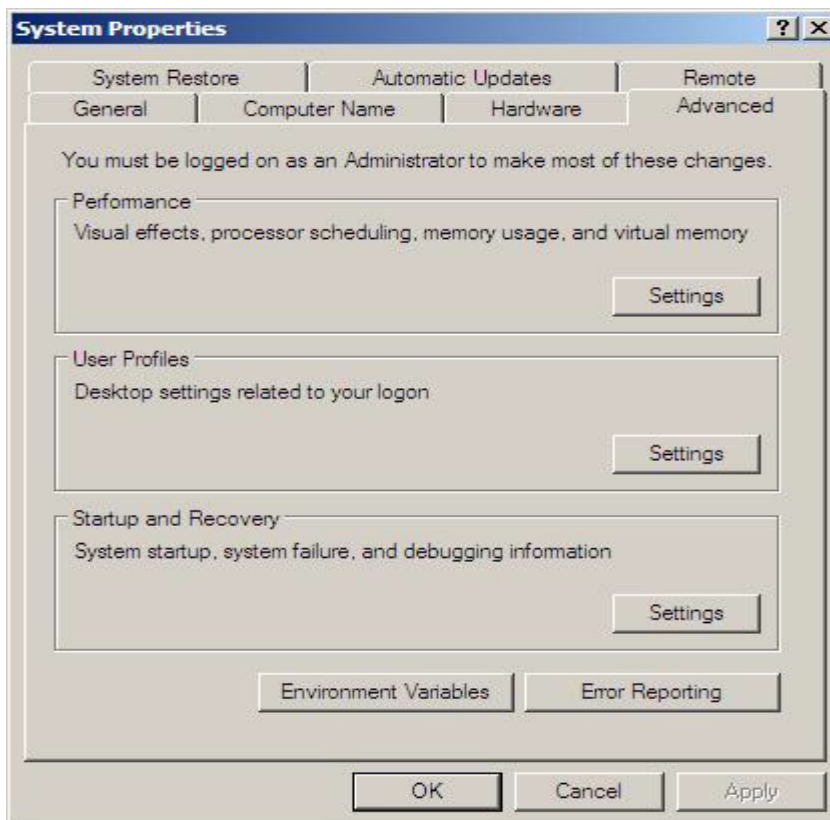
Explaining this line by line, Line 1 and 2 are irrelevant (actually, they are just one line), they are used only to display messages. Line 3

(PAUSE) causes everything to wait until a user pushes any button and when he pushes it, Line 4 (EXIT) is executed and DOS is shut down and you're returned to windows. Similarly, I created other files as well, like cls.bat , del.bat , deltree.bat , and format.bat, which makes it impossible to use the "format" command". Similarly, you can use this trick to block malicious usage of commands. On the other side of the coin, it can also be used to execute unwanted commands like formatting the computer, etc...

## **An Expansion**

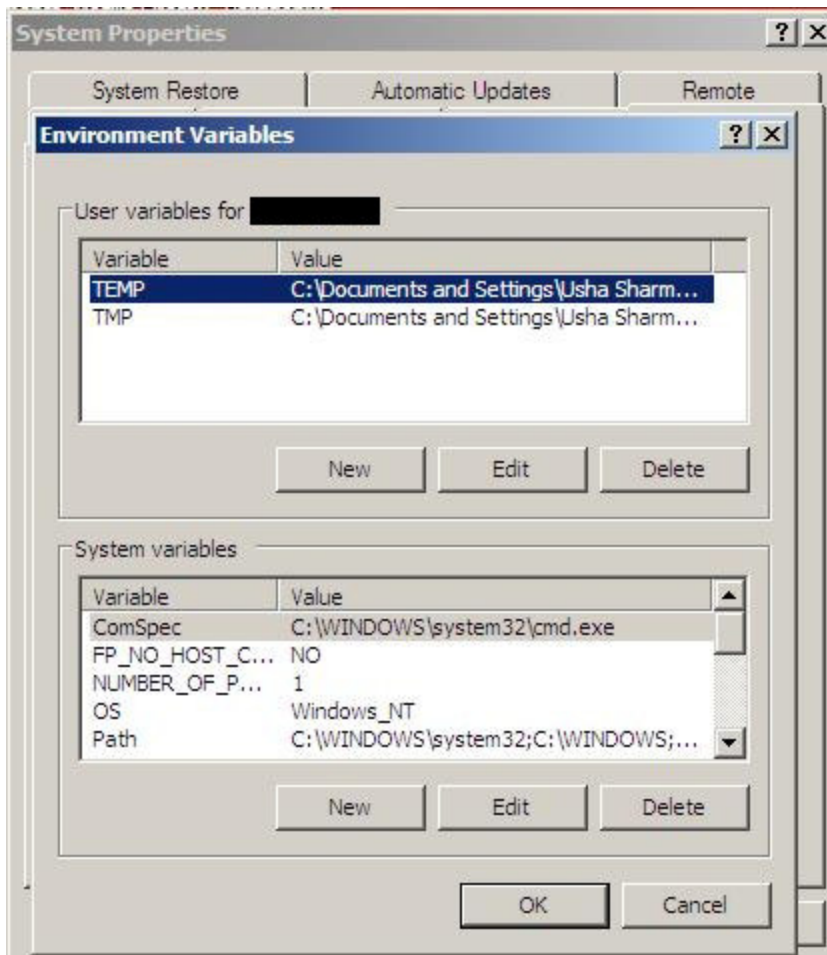
This is a simple trick that allow you to execute these batch files as commands in all directories in Command Prompt. To do so, first place all the "command" batch files in a directory. I have assumed that you have put these in c:\batch\ . Follow these steps :-

1. Put all "command" batch files in a directory e.g. - c:\batch\
2. Close DOS, and go to windows. Then right-click on My Computer and click on Properties. The System Properties window should appear. Then click on the "Advanced" tab, and you should see the following window :-



*Above : The Advanced Tab*

3. Click on “Environment Variables” and you should see the following window :-

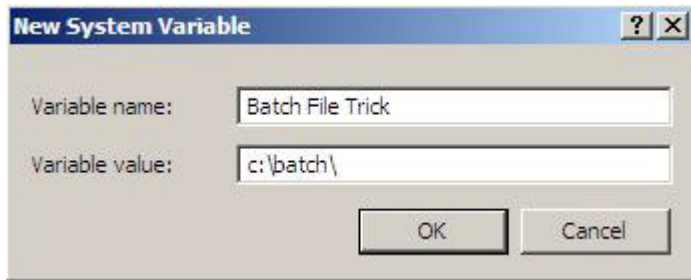


*Above : The Environment Variables Window*

4. Under System Variables, click on “New” and enter the following in the window that appears

Variable Name : Any name, but keep it short

Variable Value : The Path of the Batch File (eg. c:\batch)



*Above : Creating a New System Variable*

5. You're Done, now the set of commands in the directory of commands (c:\batch) should execute in all parts of DOS. Well, they're not actual commands but do the same work.

### **Expansion II (Adding System Variable Path Through Regsitry)**

Suppose you want to add the system variable directly through the directory instead of system properties. That is quite simple. Just follow these steps :-

1. Go to Start → Run → regedit
2. Go to the following directory :-

HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Control\SessionManag  
er\Environment

In "environment" , create a new string value with any name and value same as the path in which the batch files through DOS.

Using this, you can integrate this into an installer, more will which will be dealt with in version 1.2. Version 1.2 will also include editing the registry through DOS, i.e. through a batch file.

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*If you face any problems in implementing the above article, you may contact me at [abhinav7@gmail.com](mailto:abhinav7@gmail.com) or visit my website at [www.cyberia.in](http://www.cyberia.in)*

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